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EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON  
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION  
Working Group on Abatement Techniques  
(Seventh session, Geneva, 1-2 July 1999)  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**MANAGEMENT OF BY-PRODUCTS CONTAINING HEAVY METALS OR  
PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS**

Progress report by the Chairman of the Task Force

1. In accordance with the work plan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/59, annex III, item 4.4), the first meeting of the Task Force on the Management of By-products containing Heavy Metals or Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), led by Austria, took place in Salzburg from 26 to 27 April 1999 at the invitation of the Government of Austria. The scope of its work, its methods of work and the related time frame, including the tuning of its mandate and the preparation of this first meeting had been preliminarily discussed at an informal meeting of potential Task Force members at the Umweltbundesamt in Vienna from 1 to 2 December 1998.
2. The meeting was chaired by Mr. A. Hackl (Austria) and attended by experts from the following Parties to the Convention: Austria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and United Kingdom. A representative of the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy (UNIPEDE) also participated.

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3. In view of its mandate, the members of the Task Force presented developments and activities concerning waste/residue/by-product management in relation to those containing heavy metals or POPs, focusing in particular on legal issues, sectors of concern and specific problems, e.g. landfilling. Experts from the lead country made presentations on key issues for the management of these by-products in several major sectors, e.g. incineration, iron and steel industry, aluminium industry, power plants and small firing installations.

4. After in-depth discussion, the Task Force defined its main tasks and agreed on its methods of work, including related deadlines and a timetable for its final report to the Executive Body in the year 2001. In particular, the Task Force agreed on the preliminary structure of the status report, on the collection of all necessary data through questionnaires and on the harmonized content of all chapters concerning the main sectors, including cost issues (see annex). The Task Force also assigned experts to draft the different chapters of the draft status report.

5. For the sake of fully completing its work, the Task Force requested its members to further investigate three additional sectors: agriculture, by Denmark; small firing installations, including household ones by Austria and Germany; and used products by, the United Kingdom. It would include them into the status report at its second meeting.

6. The collection of necessary data would start immediately after the meeting for the aluminium industry, the iron and steel industry and waste incineration, for which questionnaires were discussed and approved at the meeting, and continue for other sectors with a set of questionnaires to be developed by the drafting experts and approved by the Chairman of the Task Force. The Task Force requested the lead country to send out all questionnaires to experts from Parties present at the meeting.

7. The participants at the meeting underlined the need for other Parties, not present, to participate in the activities of the Task Force and to send their contributions to the lead country. The secretariat would be requested to contact those Parties and provide them with the set of questionnaires as soon as these were ready for distribution.

8. The experts from Canada, Croatia, the United Kingdom and UNIPEDA preliminarily considered hosting one of the Task Force's future meetings; the second being scheduled to take place from 18 to 22 October 1999, the third in spring 2000 and the fourth and last in autumn 2000. The lead country offered to host the drafting group meeting aimed at finalizing the report of the Task Force, including its conclusions and recommendations, in February 2001.

9. The Task Force prepared the preliminary agenda for its second meeting and requested the secretariat to report to it on activities related to the management of by-products containing heavy metals or POPs in other international forums.

10. The members of the Task Force expressed their appreciation to the Government of Austria and to the host institution, Umweltbundesamt, for their hospitality and for the excellent local arrangements.

Annex

**STRUCTURE OF THE STATUS REPORT (DRAFT CONTENTS), ASSIGNED  
RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATED TIMESCALE**

- I. Introduction
- II. General aspects (to be prepared by Austria)
  - A. Definitions
  - B. Major sources/sectors
  - C. Management practices
- III. Waste incineration (to be prepared by Austria)
  - A. Introduction
  - B. General process and plant description
  - C. Residues
  - D. Minimization of residues
  - E. Utilization of residues
  - F. Disposal of residues
- IV. Co-incineration (to be prepared by Austria)
- V. Power plants (to be prepared by the United Kingdom and UMPED)
- VI. Iron and steel industry (to be prepared by Austria and Czech Republic)
- VII. Aluminium industry (to be prepared by Canada in cooperation with Austria)
- VIII. Copper industry (to be prepared by Canada)
- IX. Pulp and paper industry (to be prepared by Germany)
- X. Oil refineries (to be prepared by Austria with contribution from the Netherlands)
- XI. Legal instruments (to be prepared by Slovakia)
- XII. Conclusions and recommendations

Second meeting of the Task Force: decision to be taken on the pending chapters; chapters III, IV, VI and VII to be preliminarily reviewed.

Third meeting of the Task Force: chapters V, VIII, IX and X to be preliminarily reviewed.

Fourth meeting of the Task Force: draft status report to be reviewed, including remaining chapters.

Drafting group: Finalization of the status report, including the executive summary and conclusions and draft recommendations.